

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification of the above-identified application as follows.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 4 shows a typical securing apparatus (1)(21) for securing two articles together.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

A threaded releasing tool (13) is inserted into a complementarily threaded section (10) of ~~thea~~ body (2)(22) until ~~thean~~ aperture (3)(23) is opened sufficiently to allow the securing apparatus (1)(21) to be moved over the parts of the two articles that are to be secured together.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The threaded releasing tool (13) is then removed so that the aperture (3)(23) will try to close to its original position and will therefore secure the two articles together.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 5 shows an alternative to the securing apparatus (1)(21) in FIG. 4, wherein ~~the~~a securing apparatus (1)(31) is configured to join the two articles together by securing their internal surfaces (11) rather than their external surfaces as in FIG. 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

~~The~~A body (2)(32) includes a section (12) that can rotate around the body (2)(32).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

The rotating section (12) includes ~~the~~a threaded section (10)(40).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The body (2)(32) includes a number of ~~the~~apertures (3)(33) at either end of the body (2),(32), all of which extend only partially along the length of the body (2)(32).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The threaded releasing tool (13) is inserted into ~~thea~~ threaded section (10)(40) which is positioned so that when fully inserted the releasing tool (13) will press against a section of the body (2)(32) causing at least one aperture (3)(33) and a section of the body (2)(32) to deform to a point where (for example), a tube (14) can be fitted over one end of the securing apparatus (1)(31).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Once the releasing tool (13) is at least partially removed the body (2)(32) and apertures (3)(33) will try to assume their previous positions and thereby will secure the tube (14) by its inside surface.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The rotating section (12) is then moved to a position where the releasing tool (13) can be wound in to deform a corresponding aperture (3)(33) and section of the body (2)(32) at the opposite end of the securing apparatus (1)(31) in order that the process can be repeated to secure the second tube (14) to the securing apparatus (1)(31).